

connected to the front cover, (3) wherein the front cover may be *pivoted* about the hinge connection *and thereby raised upward* into (4) a *fixed position* with the positional fixing linkage (5) located along a *range of positions from completely lowered downward to completely raised upward*, (6) the front horizontal cover region and front vertical flange prevent projected debris from being distributed *upward and rearward* relative to the weed trimmer.

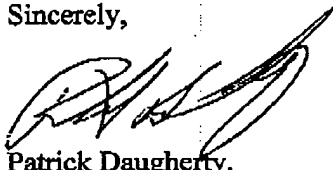
Applicant proposes to amend claim 1 to incorporate some of these claim limitations: specifically, the (1) *hinge*, (3) wherein the front cover may be *pivoted* about the hinge *upward* (5) along a *range of positions from completely lowered downward to completely raised upward*, and (6) wherein the front horizontal cover region and front vertical flange prevent the projected debris from being distributed *upward and rearward* relative to the weed trimmer.

It is believed that none of the prior art references of record, individually or in combination, teach all four of these claim limitations, and that claim 1 amended as proposed is allowable over the prior art of record. Furthermore, as these amendments merely incorporate claim limitations already searched and addressed by the examiner with respect the examination of previously submitted dependent claim 2, no new issues are believed to be raised by this proposed amendment. (The remaining two limitations have been left in amended dependent claim 2: (2) a *positional fixing linkage* connected to the front cover, wherein the front cover may be pivoted into a (4) *fixed position* located along the range of positions.)

It is further proposed to amend corresponding independent method claim 11 and dependent method claim 12 similarly.

The undersigned has submitted this strictly for discussion in a subsequent interview, to be conducted on December 8, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. by initiation of the examiner by calling the undersigned at 440-205-3600, and this is not to be entered into the file as an amendment of record.

Sincerely,



Patrick Daugherty.

Driggs, Lucas, Brubaker & Hogg Co., L.P.A

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Date: ~~December 1, 2004~~ 12/8/04

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